

**New Program Proposal**  
**Associate in Health Sciences, Major in Emergency Medical Technology**  
**Technical College of the Lowcountry**

**Summary**

The Technical College of the Lowcountry requests approval to offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree with a major in Emergency Medical Technology, to be implemented in August 2004.

The Board of the State Technical College System approved the proposal on February 12, 2004. The proposal was submitted for Commission review on February 14, 2004. The proposal was reviewed without substantive comment and voted upon favorably by the Advisory Committee on Academic Programs at its meeting on March 31, 2004.

The purpose of the program is to prepare graduates either for entry-level into the EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) field or to advance the careers of those already in the field who have only received non-credit training and/or non-degree educational preparation thus far. The need for the program is based on demand by employers (both public and private) and on the increased level of education and training required for entering or career progression in the field. The fact that DHEC has recently adopted new US Department of Transportation (USDOT) national standards for EMT has meant that a person in the field must take advanced training or an associate degree program. A person interested in the field as a career opportunity will have to have completed either advanced training or an associate degree in the field. The fact that the advanced training option does not allow for financial aid will make the associate degree option much more appealing to many students. Based on a needs analysis survey conducted by the institution in Fall 2003, there were an estimated 123-125 full-time (new and replacement) positions in the EMT field in the service area for 2003.

The curriculum consists of 69 credit hours. Of these, 15 credits are in general education, three are in an elective, and 51 are in the major field itself. The curriculum has been designed to meet the USDOT standards recently adopted by the South Carolina DHEC. The proposed curriculum is similar in content to that offered by the other three technical colleges which have been approved to offer a program in this field: Greenville Technical College, Florence-Darlington Technical College, and Horry-Georgetown Technical College (just approved in 2004 by the Commission for beginning Fall 2004.) Each of these institutions has a different geographical clientele from the proposed

program at Technical College of the Lowcountry. Thus, although these programs represent duplications of the same service, the programs themselves are not “unnecessarily” duplicative. A total of 13 new courses will be required for the proposed program.

The proposal from Technical College of the Lowcountry indicates that only one new full-time faculty member will be hired in the first three years of the program. The proposal notes that the national accrediting body for EMT programs, known as the Committee on Accreditation of Emergency Medical Services Programs (CoAEMSP), states in its requirements that “for most programs, there should be a full-time lead instructor in addition to the program director and the lead instructor should be certified as a paramedic by a nationally recognized certifying organization.” However, the proposal states that because of the relatively small size of this program and the collaboration with the Lowcountry EMS Council, the institution regards one full-time faculty member to be sufficient. Part-time faculty members will be hired as adjuncts when necessary.

Enrollment in the proposed program is estimated to begin at 15 headcount (18 FTE) in FY 2004-05 and increase to 30 headcount (30 FTE) by FY 2005 and thereafter. Estimates of enrollment are based on the number of students anticipated as a result of local demand and student interest. If enrollment projections are met, the program will meet the current CHE program productivity standards for enrollment.

The proposed program will seek national accreditation through the Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Program’s Committee on Accreditation of Educational Programs for the Emergency Medical Services Professions (CoAEMSP). Steps to begin accreditation will take place immediately upon approval of the program by the Commission on Higher Education.

There are no physical plant requirements for the proposed program. Faculty salaries will be \$55,000 in the first two years, rising to \$56,000 in the third year. Equipment needs are relatively extensive. A clarifying memorandum from the institution, dated April 6, 2004, indicates a total of \$33,760 will be necessary in equipment to support the program. According to the proposal, these costs will be handled at no cost by the institution’s relationship with the Lowcountry EMS Council and other equipment donations. The clarifying memorandum of April 6, 2004, indicates that if the donations fail to materialize, the College will purchase all necessary equipment through contingency funds available in the annual operating budget of the institution.

The library will require additional volumes and learning materials. In the first three years of the program’s operation, the library will receive a total of \$5000 for these additional volumes and materials. Of this amount, \$4,000 will be expended in the first year and \$500 in each of the following two years.

New costs for the program are estimated to begin at \$69,000 year one and include faculty salaries/fringe benefits, supplies/materials, and library resources. Costs for the second year are estimated at \$130,134 and \$170,167 in the third year. Total costs for the first three years of the program in all categories are estimated at \$396,301, exclusive of the \$33,760 in equipment costs anticipated to be donated.

Shown below are the Mission Resource Requirement (MRR) costs to the state and new costs not funded by the MRR associated with implementation of the proposed program for its first three years. Also shown are the estimated revenues projected under the MRR and the Resource Allocation Plan as well as student tuition.

Year	Estimated MRR Cost for Proposed Program	Extraordinary (Non-MRR) Costs for Proposed Program	Total Costs	State Appropriation	Tuition	Total Revenue
2004-05	\$396,773	\$0	<b>\$396,773</b>	\$0	\$60,160	<b>\$60,160</b>
2005-06	595,160	0	<b>595,160</b>	110,281	90,180	<b>200,461</b>
2006-07	595,160	0	<b>595,160</b>	165,558	90,180	<b>255,738</b>

These data demonstrate that even if the Technical College of the Lowcountry meets the projected student enrollments and contain costs as they are shown in the proposal, the program will still not be able to cover new costs with revenues it generates by the third year of its implementation. Nevertheless, the institution affirms that it has the resources to operate the program effectively.

In summary, the Technical College of the Lowcountry will offer a program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology that will certify students in the service area in Emergency Medical Technology. As measured by employer demand and student interest, the program is needed in the area. No nearby institution will have the same program. While \$37,760 in equipment costs are anticipated to be donated for this program, the institution has stated its ability and willingness to fund these equipment purchases through its own contingency operating funds, if necessary.

### **Recommendation**

The Committee on Academic Affairs and Licensing recommends that the Commission approve Technical College of the Lowcountry's proposed program leading to the Associate in Health Sciences degree in Emergency Medical Technology for implementation in August 2004, provided that no "unique cost" or other special State funding be required or requested.